THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Effective midnight of 11th /12th January 2002, the excise duty on petrol was increased from 32% to 90% and that on diesel was increased from 16% to 20%. Effective the same date, the ex-storage point price (exclusive of duty, local levies etc.) of petrol was reduced from Rs. 18999.01/KL to Rs. 10820/ KL and that of diesel was reduced from Rs. 11934.60/Kl to Rs. 11040/KL.

Effective midnight of 28th February/1st March 2002, the excise duty on petrol has been revised from 90% to 32% plus Rs. 6/Litre Special Additional Duty of Excise. The excise duty on diesel has also been revised from 20% to 16%. Additional duty of excise of Re. 1 per litre already being levied on petrol and diesel continues.

(c) Kerosene for public distribution system and domestic LPG are subsidized products.

Production of oil from new wells

†1734. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production from the crude oil wells explored since March, 1998 has since been started;

(b) if so, the number of oil wells from which the production has been started during the above period; and

(c) the year-wise production of crude oil from these oil wells during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) From March, 1998, crude oil has been produced from a total of 38 exploratory wells. Year-wise production during these last three years from the exploratory wells is as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Oil Production (In tonnes)
1998-99	57,020
1999-2000	1,03,650
2000-20001	2,52,081

Investment made in exploration of oil

†1735. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new crude oil wells have been explored in the country during March, 1998 to December, 2001;

(b) if so, the location thereof and the assessment made regarding the quantity of crude oil expected to be found in those wells; and

(c) the total amount spent on exploration of these oil wells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During the period March, 1998 to December, 2001, exploratory wells were drilled by National Oil Companies (NOCs) and private/joint venture operators in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu and also in the Mumbai Offshore, Cambay Offshore and Krishna-Godavari Offshore areas. As on 1.4.2001, the total quantity of ultimate reserve of oil assessed for new finds is of the order of 8.74 Million Metric Tonne (MMT).

(c) the total expenditure on exploration during this period, March, 1998 to December, 2001, was about Rs. 7735 crores.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.